

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY U.S.S.R.

DATE:

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SUBJECT Soviet Policy Regarding the Danube, the
Kiel Canal, and the Straits

CONFIDENTIAL

INFO.

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ORIGIN

This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1979 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the

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SUPPLEMENT

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STATE	WAR	NAVY	JUSTICE	R & E	C & D	A-2						

25X1 1. The U.S.S.R. had intended to call a conference of Danube river states for the
25X1 purpose of settling the question of navigation on the Danube. This conference,
25X1 which would have taken place in Vienna in November, was to have been presided
25X1 over by Russia. It would have had representatives from none of the other great
25X1 powers.

25X1 2. [redacted] the Balkans Commission does not change the
25X1 fundamental position of the U.S.S.R., which remains uncompromising on the fact
that the riparian states alone, victors or vanquished, should settle the Danube
question. According to the Russian delegates, there evidently is no question
of reserving Danubian commerce for the riparian states alone.

25X1 3. The Soviets will now wait for the results of the examination of the Danubian
question by the whole Conference. [redacted]

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25X1 [redacted] They think that in the Conference itself, it will not ob-
tain a two-thirds majority either, and that consequently, it can not be pre-
sented as a recommendation of the Conference to the Council of Four Foreign
Ministers. Finally, it is the "four" who will decide, the Russians say, and
the other members will have to go over to the Russian side.

4. As for the matter of the Straits, the Russian position has not changed there
either. Propaganda launched by the Moscow government inside the Soviet Union
on this subject was such that a profound modification of this position appears
impossible.

When a parallel was drawn between the Black Sea, and the Baltic Sea, calling
both of them "inland seas", none of the Russian delegates present contradicted
this simile. The Russians even let it be understood that when the status of the
Baltic Sea and that of the Kiel Canal are examined, this particular nature of
the Baltic would doubtless have to be taken into consideration in order to deter-
mine the status of the Kiel Canal. The Russians will doubtless claim control of
the Kiel Canal. [redacted]

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[Redacted]

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7. The U.S.S.R. plans to feel out the situation to see if the time is ripe for accomplishing a federation between Yugoslavia, Bulgaria and Albania for the purpose of dominating Eastern Europe, isolating Greece and Turkey, and controlling the Straits effectively.

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8. Thus, a test of strength is being prepared in this region [Redacted]

[Redacted] The repercussions [Redacted]

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would be heavy with consequences. The Russians know this and are proceeding methodically, taking the necessary time and precautions. The stakes are high.

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